

This document briefly describes the changes from FireSite 2.0 to FireSite 2.1.

As of July 7th, 1997, FireSite 2.1 is the official released & supported version of

- FireSite Virtual Domain Manager (virtual domain service)
- FireSite Speed Booster Edition (site acceleration)
- FireSite Standard Edition (VDM plus acceleration)
- FireSite Multimedia Edition (VDM, unlimited acceleration, multimedia features)

NOTE:

StarNine has identified a critical "crash bug" in WebSTAR 2.0 and earlier versions. You should upgrade to WebSTAR 2.1 as soon as you can.
<http://www.starnine.com/>

New features in FireSite 2.1

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- * Added resettable statistics for traffic analysis and virtual-domain billing
Statistics are visible in /perf.fire, the 'list of sites' page, and on the setup page for each virtual site.
 - * Added "FS Live" Finder label. This is designed explicitly for "live" files such as WebCams. FireSite will not cache any "FS Live" files, and if an "FS Live" file changes, FireSite will not bother to clear the WebSTAR or plug-in caches. (MM only)
 - * FireSite now starts up very, very quickly compared to earlier versions. The startup time is NOT related to the size of your FireSite database (anymore). For the first couple of minutes AFTER startup, your server will continue caching the FireSite database into RAM, which may slow down your server a small amount. You will see a message in the WebSTAR window when the database is fully cached. FireSite will automatically convert your existing database into the "fast start" format the first time you run FireSite 2.1 (this one-time operation may take a few minutes).
 - * Added control over whether FireSite "cleans" messy URLs with redundant information or not. For example, if a Netscape users enters
<http://www.firstco.com/~firstco/products.html>
FireSite ordinarily redirects the browser (using link.fire) to
<http://www.firstco.com/products.html>
However, if you are combining FireSite with an IP-mapping router or driver, you may wish to disable this feature. You can now control it by accessing the "FireSite Setup" page. (Std and MM only)
 - * Added special control for ISDN users with "virtual connections" (also known as dial-on-demand, and dialback-on-demand) This control allows you to stop FireSite from monitoring your remote servers after a certain period of inactivity on your Web site. FireSite will stop testing the remote servers after the timeout you specify, and your ISDN line will be able to 'drop.' FireSite will resume remote-server monitoring once activity resumes on your Web site.
 - * New messages in the WebSTAR window that show when various FireSite feature have been triggered:

Virtual-domain related (Std and MM only):

- + FireSite serving Site Error page ([requested-URL] not found)
- + FireSite serving Multisite Index Page to "[name-of-browser]" [requested URL]
- + FireSite linking browser to cleaner virtual site URL.
This is shown if a browser requests a 'redundant' URL, such as
<http://www.firstco.com/~firstco/products.html>

FireSite will "link" (redirect) the browser to the 'cleaner' URL:

<http://www.firstco.com/products.html>
if the browser is capable of handling it (ie, if it uses "Host:")
UNLESS the corresponding switch in the admin page is turned off.

Welcome Mat (MM only):

- + FireSite Welcoming new visitor from [address] with [welcome-mat-page]

Anti-hijacking (MM only):

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+ FireSite Message: Attempt to hijack [URL]
                      Location: [URL-of-page-trying-to-hijack-your-media]
                      Hijacking blocked by FireSite Multimedia Edition.
                      FireSite sending [your-antihijacking-image]
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Improved features

- When FireSite uses TCP/IP Autoproxy to communicate with a CGI or plug-in, it places the 'real' client IP address in the HTTP 'From' field, as well as in the custom "X-Client-Address" field. This makes it simple to access the 'real' client address from Tango or other CGIs.
- "Welcome Mats" are now NOT activated if the user is browsing through a proxy gateway; this change makes sure that proxy-gateway users are not repeatedly 'Welcomed' even if their IP address shifts around (AOL), and does not require 'cookies'
- Duplicate 'virtual site names' and duplicate 'host names' are now caught by the admin interface. (They were never allowed, but now that rule is enforced by the UI.)
- FireSite is now in compliance with the proposed MIDAS standard for handling virtual domain requests; FireSite adds X-Original-Request to the HTTP header. Additionally, FireSite adds X-Error-Url when a page is not found, and the error action is run
- FireSite makes three attempts to connect to a remote server before declaring it "offline"...this should help modem PPP users.
- The "server unavailable" and "server now available" messages are now shown in realtime, as soon as the condition changes.
- Streamlined the UI for the "List All Sites" page when there are more than ten sites defined (Std and MM only)
- "Remote Server Setup" shows which Sites are using this server (Std and MM only)
- "Site Settings" page now shows which remote servers are used by this site (Std and MM only)
- Import/Export file now includes MIME-type settings (MM only)
- FireSite sends special HTTP headers for the Welcome Mat and Anti-hijack image. These should prevent the remote browser from caching these 'transient' files. (MM only)
- FireSite now tests every remote replicated file in turn (it was skipping around before, and did not necessarily test every file.)
- Improved handling of "over-encoded" URLs generated by some browsers.
- When a directory URL is requested without the trailing slash, FireSite now redirects to the correct 'virtual domain URL', but WITH the slash. (A later WebSTAR version of WebSTAR will include this option, but FireSite users get it now!)
- Welcome Mat client tracking is now site-specific (MM only)

Bugs fixes

- Fixed a bug with certain FireSite Authorization Keys (AISS 2.0 keys in particular).
- Fixed a bug with "vf.fire" and virtual domain pages that had been bookmarked and/or indexed by Web crawlers under older (2.0 beta) versions of FireSite.
- Fixed bug occurring when themes had been deleted, but were still in use
- Fixed a bug that was crashing WebSTAR under extremely heavy loads in extremely low memory conditions. Now FireSite just disables itself, but WebSTAR still runs.

- Fixed a bug that was causing problems if HTML files, or CGI or plug-in output contained NULL characters. NULLs are now passed straight through.
- Multimedia Themes are now persistent again (MM only)
- Fixed a bug that could cause 'runaway log files'
- Removed a warning that was showing up incorrectly for MM/STD users who had Autoproxy turned off.
- Fixed a small bug that was causing some of the spurious "Detected modified file" messages